

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEGISLATION DIFFERENTIATING ANIMAL FATS AND VEGETABLE OIL FROM TOXIC OIL UNDER FEDERAL LAW

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation, along with Ms. Danner of Missouri, requiring Federal agencies to differentiate between organic oils—animal fats and vegetable oils—and petroleum-based oils when promulgating regulations under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

This commonsense legislation does not change or weaken the underlying principles of the Oil Protection Act of 1990 or the other related statutes, like the Clean Water Act. It simply requires agencies to, one, differentiate animal fats and vegetable oils from other oils, and two, proposes regulations that recognize the differences in the characteristics or properties of these oils. These natural products are nontoxic, and their unnecessary regulation forces businesses to comply with costly and counterproductive requirements.

The need for this legislation is prompted by the regulations recently issued under provisions of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and the laws amended by the act. The Oil Pollution Act was designed to reduce the risk of, improve the response to, and minimize the impact of catastrophic oil spills, like the one in Prince William Sound, Alaska. Unfortunately, the Oil Pollution Act's definition of "oil," has been broadly applied to nontoxic agricultural products rather than just toxic oils.

Nobody in their right mind would purposely ingest toxic products, but many of us consume food products manufactured with animal fats and vegetable oils every day. I think we can all agree agricultural oils do not pose the same risk to the environment and human health as toxic synthetic oils and, therefore, should not be regulated in the same fashion by the Federal Government.

In the 103d Congress many Members of this body agreed with me and signed letters to Secretary Penā and Administrator Browner on this subject. A version of this legislation was passed twice by the House as part of H.R. 4422 and H.R. 4852. The Senate also passed virtually the same measure.

Today, I am once again asking for the support of my colleagues to correct the unintended consequences of the Oil Pollution Act and other Federal environmental laws as we work to eliminate the unnecessary and costly regulatory burdens placed on U.S. business that do not add any additional measure of protection to the environment or the health and safety of our citizens.

1-800 "BUY AMERICAN" LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation to establish a toll-free, 1-800 phone number consumers can call to get information on products made in America. Last year I introduced similar legislation. Working with Republicans and Democrats on the Energy and Commerce Committee, an excellent and workable piece of legislation was crated in 1994. The bill was approved by the House last summer on a voice vote.

The legislation I am introducing today is identical to the bill that was approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee and reported to the House floor.

The legislation I am introducing today directs the Commerce Department to canvass American companies to gauge their interest in participating in a "1-800 Buy American Program." After determining that there is sufficient interest, the Commerce Department is directed to contract out the program to a private company.

The toll-free number would provide consumers with information on products made in this country. Under the bill, an American-made product is any product produced or assembled in this country with at least 90 percent domestic content—the same criteria used by the Federal Trade Commission for determining whether or not a product can have a "Made in America" label placed on it. Only those products with a sale price of \$250 or more would be included in the program. The bill would subject any companies providing false information to Federal penalties.

One of the key components of my bill is that the program would be self-financed through the imposition of a modest annual registration fee on participating companies.

I want to emphasize that my bill will not require the Commerce Department to hire more people or create a new unit. The only expense to the Department would be to prepare language for the Federal Register and to prepare bid documents. Let me reemphasize that the program will be contracted out and run by a private company.

All the program would do is provide American consumers with information on what products are made in America. When making a big purchase, most Americans want to buy American. This program will help them make an informed—and hopefully patriotic—decision.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill and sign on as a cosponsor. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. —

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF TOLL FREE NUMBER PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—If the Secretary of Commerce determines, on the basis of comments submitted in rulemaking under section 2, that—

(1) interest among manufacturers is sufficient to warrant the establishment of a 3-year toll free number pilot program, and

(2) manufacturers will provide fees under section 2(c) so that the program will operate without cost to the Federal Government, the Secretary shall establish such program solely to help inform consumers whether a product is made in America or the equivalent thereof. The Secretary shall publish the toll-free number by notice in the Federal Register.

(b) CONTRACT.—The Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a contract for—

(1) the establishment and operation of the toll free number pilot program provided for in subsection (a), and

(2) the registration of products pursuant to regulations issued under section 2, which shall be funded entirely from fees collected under section 2(c).

(c) USE.—The toll free number shall be used solely to inform consumers as to whether products are registered under section 2 as made in America or the equivalent thereof. Consumers shall also be informed that registration of a product does not mean—

(1) that the product is endorsed or approved by the Government,

(2) that the Secretary has conducted any investigation to confirm that the product is a product which meets the definition of made in America or the equivalent thereof, or

(3) that the product contains 100 percent United States content.

SEC. 2. REGISTRATION.

(a) PROPOSED REGULATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall propose a regulation—

(1) to establish a procedure under which the manufacturer of a product may voluntarily register such product as complying with the definition of a product made in America or the equivalent thereof and have such product included in the information available through the toll free number established under section 1(a);

(2) to establish, assess, and collect a fee to cover all the costs (including start-up costs) of registering products and including registered products in information provided under the toll-free number;

(3) for the establishment under section 1(a) of the toll-free number pilot program; and

(4) to solicit views from the private sector concerning the level of interest of manufacturers in registering products under the terms and conditions of paragraph (1).

(b) PROMULGATION.—If the Secretary determines based on the comments on the regulation proposed under subsection (a) that the toll-free number pilot program and the registration of products is warranted, the Secretary shall promulgate such regulations

(c) REGISTRATION FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Manufacturers of products included in information provided under section 1 shall be subject to a fee imposed by the Secretary of Commerce to pay the cost of registering products and including them in information provided under subsection (a).

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of fees imposed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) in the case of a manufacturer, not be greater than the cost of registering the manufacturer's product and providing product information directly attributable to such manufacturer, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.